

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: LOS
SUBJECT: LOS: FRG BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES DISCUSS DEEP SEA-
BED MINING LEGISLATION WITH CONGRESSMAN
JOHN MURPHY

1. CONGRESSMAN JOHN MURPHY, IN LONDON AS A MEMBER OF
USDEL TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TANKER SAFETY AND
POLLUTION PREVENTION, MET ON FEB. 15 WITH BUNDESTAG
DEPUTIES ANGERMEIR OF FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND KITTELMANN
OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THEIR STAFFER STRACKE.
DEPUTIES REQUESTED THE MEETING AND CAME TO LONDON FROM
BONN ESPECIALLY FOR IT. THE FRG PARLIAMENTARIANS TOLD
MURPHY ABOUT THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON LOS ISSUES WITH VARIOUS
G-77 GOVERNMENTS WHICH THEY HAD VISITED AND INQUIRED
ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING THE
PROSPECTS FOR US DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION. THEY
EXPRESSED A NEED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION BETWEEN US AND FRG LOS DELEGATIONS AT THE
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SPRING MEETING IN GENEVA. THEY PROMISED TO SEND MURPHY
COPIES OF THE VARIOUS DRAFTS OF SEABED MINING THAT THEIR
COMMITTEE WAS BEGINNING TO EXAMINE.

2. ANGERMEIR AND KITTELMANN SAID THAT IN THEIR RECENT
MEETING WITH PAUL ENGO OF THE CAMEROON HE HAD INSISTED
THAT HE WAS NOT WED TO THE TEXT ON DEEP SEABED MINING

WHICH HE HAD INSERTED IN THE ICNT AND THAT IT WAS IN THEIR HANDS TO CHANGE. AT THE SAME TIME HE CAUTIONED THEM ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE IF IT WERE FACED WITH A COMPLETELY NEW TEXT. A NUMBER OF LDCS HAD INDICATED TO THE DEPUTIES THAT THE CONCEPT OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO THEM AND MUST NOT BE TOUCHED, BUT THAT BETWEEN THE CONCEPT AND THE DETAILS OF A DEEP SEABED REGIME THERE WAS A WIDE AREA FOR NEGOTIATION. THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN FREQUENTLY WARNED THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE A STRONG AND NEGATIVE EMOTIONAL REACTION IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ADOPTED NATIONAL DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION. STRONGEST IN THIS VIEW WERE THE KENYANS WHO SAID THAT THEY WERE UNWILLING EVEN TO DISCUSS SUCH A POSSIBILITY WITH THE FRG DEPUTIES.

3. THE DEPUTIES INQUIRED OF CONGRESSMAN MURPHY ABOUT THE TIMING FOR US DEEP SEABED MINING TO PASS THROUGH THE HOUSE AND SENATE. MURPHY ANTICIPATED THAT A BILL WOULD GET THROUGH THE HOUSE BY EARLY MARCH, BUT THAT WITH THE DEATH OF ITS PROPONENT SENATOR METCALF AND THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY BEFORE THE SENATE, THE BILL THERE WOULD BE DELAYED. THE FRG DEPUTIES SAID THAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO HAVE A JOINT MEETING OF THEIR FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEES TO DECIDE UPON A DATE TO BRING FORWARD LEGISLATION. THEY INDICATED AT THIS POINT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT SEVERAL OTHER POINTS THAT THEY PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE FRG BEING IN CONSONANCE WITH THE US. KITTELMANN NOTED THAT IN HIS VIEW THERE WERE THREE IMPORTANT CRITERIA WHICH LEGISLATION SHOULD MEET, ALL OF WHICH WERE COVERED IN THE DRAFT US LEGISLATION: INVESTMENT GUARANTEES; INTERIM PERIOD COVERAGE; AND A FUND FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. THE DEPUTIES SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A VERY GOOD EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND FRG PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATES ON LOS AT THE SUMMER SESSION IN NY, BUT THAT THEY THOUGHT THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND FRG DELS COULD AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED AT GENEVA THIS SPRING. THE FRG HAD A NEW HEAD OF ITS DEL. CONGRESSMAN MURPHY SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT, PARTICULARLY ON THE DEEP SEABED MINING ISSUE, WHERE HE THOUGHT THE USDEL HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY REALIZED THE EXTENT OF THE INTRACTABILITY OF THE G-77. ASKED ABOUT HIS EXPECTATIONS FOR RESOLUTION OF THE DEEP SEABED MINING ISSUE AT THE SPRING GENEVA SESSION, HE SAID THAT HE REMAINED PESSIMISTIC. THE DEPUTIES EMPHASIZED THEIR INTENTION TO KEEP IN TOUCH

WITH THE CONGRESSMAN ON THE ISSUE AND HE EXPRESSED HIS
INTEREST IN SEEING THEIR DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH THEY
PROMISED TO SEND HIM.

STREATOR

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